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Accused spy: Misinformed Soviets

From combined dispatches

LONDON — A Canadian university professor accused of spying for the Soviet Union claimed yesterday he was a Western double agent who gave the KGB misinformation "doctored" by French counterespionage.

In another development, Robin Gordon Walker, 36, the son of a former British foreign secretary, has been charged with breaching official secrecy, the public prosecutor announced.

Walker, a senior government information officer, was charged Wednesday under the Official Secrets Act with "failing to take reasonable care of documents" and was ordered to appear in court in January.

At London's Old Bailey court, Canadian professor Hugh Hambleton, 60, of Laval University, Quebec, testified against charges he spied for the KGB while he worked in NATO's economic and financial department in Paris from 1956 to 1961.

Hambleton denied charges he removed documents from his office overnight, photographed them and handed the film to KGB agents in working-class areas of the French capital.

He said he handed over photographs of authentic-looking NATO documents given him by a senior French counterespionage official he identified as Jean Masson in an elaborate penetration exercise against the Soviets.

Defense counsel John Lloyd-Eley said he would prove the operation was initiated by Canadian intelligence.

Attorney General Sir Michael Havers said the claim Hambleton was a Canadian-French double agent was "an accusation of the utmost gravity that a member-nation was running an agent" inside NATO.

In early 1955, Hambleton said, he became wary about his KGB contact urging him to either get into Canadian politics or try to join NATO, then based in Paris.

Hambleton said he was contacted by Masson and agreed to help him feed

"false information back into Russia.

"He would bring me the documents which I would photograph and turn them over to the KGB contact," Hambleton said. "He (Masson) doctored the documents."

After photographing the documents with a KGB-supplied camera "I destroyed them," he said.

Hambleton told the court he was anti-Communist, spoke no Russian "apart from nyet or da" — no or yes — and never harmed British or Canadian interests or passed the Kremlin data "useful to an enemy."

He said he was an intelligence officer with the Free French forces in World War II, operated behind the German lines with the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps and at the end of the war was with Canadian military intelligence.

He said his first contact with the Soviets was in 1950 or 1951, when at a reception he met a KGB agent, "Borodin," who was first secretary and commercial attache at the Soviet Embassy



Prof. Hugh Hambleton

AP

in Ottawa. He said he believed the man's real name was Vladimir Baurdin.

He said Borodin and another Soviet agent, "Paul," contacted him again when he was studying at the University of Paris in 1955.